

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (New): A solid-state laser comprising:

a (110)-cut crystal rod belonging to an equi-axis crystal system, the rod having a radius  $r_0$ , the laser being operable to cause a beam of radius  $r_a$  to propagate through the rod, wherein  $r_a < r_0$ .

Claim 14 (New): A solid-state laser according to claim 13, wherein  $r_a = r_0/4$ .

Claim 15 (New): A solid-state laser according to claim 13, wherein the crystal rod comprises a composite material in which doped YAG is surrounded by undoped YAG.

Claim 16 (New): A solid-state laser according to claim 14, wherein the crystal rod comprises a composite material in which doped YAG is surrounded by undoped YAG.